

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – PLYMOUTH DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY



TIMOTHY J. CRUZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

MAIN OFFICE:
32 Belmont Street
P.O. BOX 1665
Brockton, MA 02303-1665
Tel: (508) 584-8120
Fax: (508) 586-3578

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
March 2, 2011

Contact: ADA Bridget Norton Middleton
(508) 584-8120

Arrest warrants issued for Luis Agustin Guaman

BROCKTON, MA- Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz today announced that arrests warrants have issued charging Luis Augustin Guaman DOB: 5-01-70, (AKA, Segundo Antonio Castro DOB: 10-04-84, AKA, Segundo Antonio Castro Zaula DOB: 10-04-84, AKA, Luis Guaman, DOB: 5-01-70, AKA, Luis Guaman, DOB: 5-01-77, and AKA, Antonio Castro, DOB: 11-01-80) with the murders of Maria Avelina Palaguachi-Cela, DOB: 11-5-85 and her son, Brian Cuanga Palaguachi, DOB: 3-17-08.

On Sunday, February 13, 2011, the bodies of Maria Avelina Palaguachi-Cela and her son, Brian Cuanga Palaguachi, were found in a dumpster near their residence at 427 Warren Avenue in the City of Brockton. An autopsy determined that both mother and child died as a result of blunt force trauma to the head and brain. On Monday, February 14, 2011 at approximately 12:01 a.m., Luis Guaman left JFK airport on a flight to Ecuador.

On the evening of February 18, 2011 investigators sought and obtained an arrest warrant from the District Court charging Guaman with the murders of Maria Avelina Palaguachi-Cela and her son, Brian. A copy of the arrest warrant was hand delivered to Ecuadorian embassy officials in Boston at approximately 10:30 p.m. on Friday, February 18th, 2011.

Investigators immediately provided a copy of the warrant to the FBI in order to obtain an Interpol Warrant for Guaman. Over the last ten days, investigators have worked closely on this issue with the FBI. Late yesterday afternoon investigators were notified that an Interpol warrant for Guaman had been issued. A copy of that warrant has been forwarded to the Interpol office in Ecuador.

In addition to pursuing Guaman's return with Ecuadorian embassy officials, the District Attorneys Office has made a formal request to the Department of Justice that they seek Guaman's return to the United States to stand trial for these murders.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – PLYMOUTH DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY



TIMOTHY J. CRUZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

MAIN OFFICE:
32 Belmont Street
P.O. BOX 1665
Brockton, MA 02303-1665
Tel: (508) 584-8120
Fax: (508) 586-3578

District Attorney Cruz stated, “This is a heart wrenching case that has shocked communities both here and in Ecuador. The people of Ecuador and their government share our outrage over this murder. If convicted of these crimes, the penalty is life in prison without the possibility of parole. This man should not be able to evade exposure to that penalty by running away and hiding in Ecuador. This case is not about competing legal systems, nor is it about international politics. It is about a little boy and his mother. The victims of these crimes include not only the innocent victims, but also this entire community. The legal jurisdiction is here, the witnesses are here, and the physical evidence and the many experts dedicated to analyzing that physical evidence at the state police crime laboratory are here. Together with the family of the victims, this community demands that the perpetrator of these crimes faces justice here. To accomplish this, I am calling on the United States and the Ecuadorian governments to work with us, and to work together, to return Luis Guaman to Brockton so that justice can be served for Maria and Brian.”

#####